

**AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. 1.116
EXPEDITED PROCEDURE
EXAMINING GROUP 2446
PATENT
Application 10/042,143
Attorney Docket 2000-0672A (1014-200)**

REMARKS

Applicant respectfully thanks the Examiner for the consideration provided to this application, and respectfully requests reconsideration of this application.

Claim 34 has been amended for at least one reason unrelated to patentability, including at least one of: to explicitly present one or more elements, limitations, phrases, terms and/or words implicit in the claim as originally written when viewed in light of the specification, thereby not narrowing the scope of the claim; to detect infringement more easily; to enlarge the scope of infringement; to cover different kinds of infringement (direct, indirect, contributory, induced, and/or importation, etc.); to expedite the issuance of a claim of particular current licensing interest; to target the claim to a party currently interested in licensing certain embodiments; to enlarge the royalty base of the claim; to cover a particular product or person in the marketplace; and/or to target the claim to a particular industry.

Claims 1, 3-12, 14-33, 25-34, and 36-44 are now pending in this application. Each of claims 1, 12, 23, and 34 is in independent form.

I. The Objections to Claim 34

Claim 34 was objected to for an informality, which has been corrected via the present amendment to claim 34. Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that any grounds for this objection has been removed, and respectfully request acknowledgment thereof.

II. The Obviousness Rejections

Each of claims 1, 3-12, 14-23, 25-34, and 36-49 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being obvious, and thus unpatentable, over various combinations of U.S. Patent 6,732,315 ("Yagil"), U.S. Patent 6,954,800 ("Mallory"), U.S. Patent 5,084,877 ("Netravali"), U.S. Patent 6,862,280 ("Bertagna"), U.S. Patent 6,031,833 ("Fickes"), U.S. Patent 6,996,712 ("Perlman"), U.S. Patent 6,377,998 ("Noll"), and/or U.S. Patent 6,862,630 ("Garg"). Each of these rejections is respectfully traversed.

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Each of independent claims 1, 12, 23, and 34 states, *inter alia*, yet no substantial evidence has been presented that the applied portions of the cited references teach (i.e., disclose and/or enable), alone or in combination, “the IFG comprising a blocking signal”.

The present Office Action cites to Yagil at col. 11, lines 51-65 to support the assertion that Yagil allegedly teaches “the IFG comprising a blocking signal”. But instead, at col. 11, lines 51-65, Yagil states that:

When a few granted bursts are transmitted consecutively, the Inter-Frame Gap (IFG) may be shortened because the transmission time is determined by the MAP message, not the carrier sense. Additionally, the backoff signal slots, the priority slots and EOF delimiter may be discarded. Also, the header symbols may be transmitted in high symbol rate and high constellations and the preamble may be shortened. All these allow a significant reduction in the system overhead. When a block of consecutive MAP-granted packets is transmitted, a HomePNA 2.0x header may be added at the beginning of the block and EOF delimiter may be added at the end of the block. HomePNA 2.0x stations regard the block as one long message. Therefore, HomePNA 2.0x stations will have no transmission opportunities during the transmission of this block.

This cited portion is simply silent about the IFG comprising any “blocking signal”, or anything else.

Thus, even if there were proper evidence of obviousness presented in the Office Action (an assumption that is respectfully traversed), and even if there were a reasonable expectation of success in combining or modifying the applied portions of the references relied upon in the Office Action (another assumption that is respectfully traversed), no substantial evidence has been presented the applied portions of the references relied upon in the Office Action, **as attempted to be modified and/or combined**, expressly or inherently teach every limitation of the independent claims, and consequently the Office Action fails to establish a *prima facie* case of obviousness. Consequently, for at least the reasons mentioned above, reconsideration and withdrawal of these rejections is respectfully requested.

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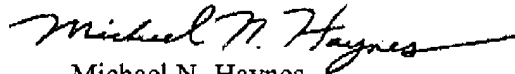
CONCLUSION

It is respectfully submitted that the application is in clear condition for allowance. Reconsideration, withdrawal of all grounds of rejection, and issuance of a Notice of Allowance are earnestly solicited.

The Office is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees or credit any overpayments under 37 C.F.R. 1.16 or 1.17 to Deposit Account 50-2504. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at 434-972-9988 to discuss any matter regarding this application.

Respectfully submitted,

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